

# News From The Rock

January 2020

Solid Rock United Methodist Church • Warren, Indiana

*Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.*

## Intentional Faith Development Winter Small Groups

Solid Rock Intentional Faith Development Small Groups will begin winter sessions the week of January 26 and continue for up to ten weeks. Intentional faith development refers to ministries, outside of weekly worship, that help people grow in faith and in their understanding of and love for God. It is the goal of each group to provide an environment in which participants can experience authentic community and spiritual growth in an open, nonthreatening setting. Signup sheets will be located at the back of the sanctuary on January 12, 19, and 26.



## New Church Directory

Solid Rock has made arrangements with Universal Church Directories to publish a new directory for the church. All who attend Solid Rock are encouraged to participate in photography sessions on January 29 or January 30, 2020. Appointments will be available from 2:00 to 8:00 p.m. on both days.



Those who are photographed will receive a print copy of the church directory and one free 8x10 photo, with a no-pressure opportunity to purchase additional photos.

This program also permits us to offer a password-protected online directory app,

which we can update.

Families not associated with Solid Rock who would like to be professionally photographed are also invited to participate and may opt out of inclusion in the directory. Invite family and friends! All who participate contribute to supplemental benefits the church can earn through this program.

## SCHEDULING YOUR APPOINTMENT

There are two ways to sign up for your family's sitting:

- A sign-up table will be available at church before and after worship services on December 29, and January 5, 12, 19, and 26.
- Online scheduling is available from 8:00 a.m. on Mondays through 12:00 midnight on Fridays. Go to the Universal website, [www.ucdir.com](http://www.ucdir.com), and click on Photography Appointment Scheduling. Enter *in1641* in the Church Code field and enter *photos* in the Church Password field, then follow the prompts.

## YOUR HELP NEEDED!

A few volunteers are needed to assist with the directory process.

- Phone callers are needed to contact families who have not scheduled, beginning on January 13.
- Sign-up table volunteers are needed approximately 30 minutes before and 30 minutes after worship on sign-up Sundays.
- Hosts and hostesses are needed to greet families as they arrive for their appointments on January 29 and 30.

If you are willing to assist, please contact Jane Hitzfield at the church office, 375-3873. She can answer any questions you might have.

Thank you for your participation in this project!



from  
Pastor Paul

A churchgoer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them... So, I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this... They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!" When you are DOWN to nothing... God is UP to something! Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible! Thank God for our physical and our spiritual nourishment! (Email forward from unknown author)

It is my prayer that over the course of the past year that our worship services and my messages have in some way provided you with the spiritual nourishment you have needed in your daily lives. It is also my prayer that in the coming year you will make an attempt to be a part of worship

*(Continued on page 3)*

*Our Vision: Sharing and experiencing the life-giving message of Jesus,  
to restore wholeness and build an intentional community of hope, relationship, and purpose for everyone.*

## Solid Rock Small Group Opportunities

### SUNDAY SMALL GROUPS (Sunday School)

#### Children's Classes

- PEBBLES (Nursery)
  - Ages 0-4
- LITTLE ROCKS/ROCK FOUNDATIONS
  - Preschool-Grade 4
- ROCK SOLID YOUTH
  - Grades 5-12

#### Adult Classes

- FIRM FOUNDATION
- FRIENDS IN FAITH

### News From The Rock

is published each month by

#### Solid Rock United Methodist Church

P.O. Box 322

Warren, Indiana 46792

[www.solidrockumc.com](http://www.solidrockumc.com)

#### Worship Schedule

Sunday School at 9:00

Worship at 10:00

at 485 Bennett Drive, Warren

Church Phone: 375-3871

#### Church Office

Office Phone: 375-3873

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday

9:00 a.m. - Noon

Pastor: Rev. Paul Burris

[pburris@hotmail.com](mailto:pburris@hotmail.com)

(260) 609-9260

Family Ministry Coordinator:

John Pearson II

[john@solidrockumc.com](mailto:john@solidrockumc.com)

Editor: Gary Walter

[gary@solidrockumc.com](mailto:gary@solidrockumc.com)

Office Manager/Treasurer: Jane Hitzfield

[jane@solidrockumc.com](mailto:jane@solidrockumc.com)

Financial Secretary: Wanda Spahr

[wanda@solidrockumc.com](mailto:wanda@solidrockumc.com)

News deadline for the February  
newsletter: January 19

- REAL LIFE

### WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

- FEASTING ON THE WORD
  - Meets on Monday evenings at 7:00 in the church kitchen

For more information on small groups, call the church office, 375-3873.

### Thank you!

A big THANK YOU for coming to Heritage Pointe of Warren to sing the beautiful Christmas carols to the residents. They were very much appreciated and what a special Christmas gift you gave us, especially this blessed time of the year. MERRY CHRISTMAS and a JOYFUL NEW YEAR.

John and Doris Souers

### November Financial Update

General Offerings .....	\$12,931
General Fund Expenses.....	\$16,443

### GRAPEVINE/NINE COMPANION CLUSTER GROUP WORKCAMP TO HENDERSON SETTLEMENT

- **When:** Sunday March 22, 2020 (Depart after church at Liberty Center) to Saturday March 28.
- **Where:** Frakes, Kentucky (Laurel Fork Valley of Southeastern KY)
- **Cost:** \$250 per person (covers on campus meals and housing for the week)
- **Purpose:** Work camp at Henderson Settlement will serve two purposes. First and primarily, it serves as an opportunity to educate persons in mission and the needs that exist amongst the less fortunate in our society. Secondly, work camp often serves as the bridge between dreams and reality for families of the Laurel Fork Valley of southeastern Kentucky, while giving groups the opportunity to witness for Christ through home repair and various other work projects. Youth are welcome to join us on this mission trip.

Registration forms are located in the back of the sanctuary or the church office. If you have any further questions please contact Pastor Paul.

## Bible Study

"Feasting on the Word" Bible studies for the month of January starts off on a "20/20" vision. Christian Pastor Max Lucado asserts that the way to claim faith is to



follow God's Word. You are encouraged to take time in this coming year to read and chew on the below listed

scriptures. Gather with others in the Solid Rock kitchen each Monday evening to listen to God and seek the way God is leading you as a person and us as a congregation. Attending each Monday at 7:00 p.m. is encouraged but not mandated. Grow as the Spirit leads.

- January 6: Matthew 2:1-12 (Jorita Banter, leader)
- January 13: Matthew 3:13-17 (Joe Haney, leader)
- January 20: John 1:25-42 (Perry Spahr, leader)
- January 27: Matthew 5:14-16 (Jorita Banter, leader)

In case of stormy weather, check with the leader-of-the evening to see if the "Feasting" will be held. May the riches of God's blessing fall upon you as we follow God's Word in the coming NEW Year!

## This little light

Worldwide, more than 1 billion people lack access to electricity; another 1.5 billion have irregular access. One new tool that's literally brightening lives is an inflatable, waterproof, solar-powered lantern.

With 10 tiny LED lights, "Luci" can shine about 15 square feet of light for up to 24 hours on a full charge. Yet the lantern weighs just 4 ounces, so it's easy to transport.

Though this versatile lantern has many uses, inventor Jason Alan Snyder is especially excited about its potential to help people living in darkness. For each \$10 donation at [mpowerd.com](http://mpowerd.com), one Luci lantern is sent for disaster relief and humanitarian aid.

Little lights — whether solar-powered or Jesus-powered — make a big impact in our dark world.

—adapted from *HomeTouch*



(Continued from page 1)

here at Solid Rock. Church is not only a place where we come for our spiritual nourishment. Church is also a place where we come to be a part of the family of God. Church is a place where God's plans can be worked out through a group of believers with a common cause. Church is a place where God's love is on display weekly as we find new and unique ways to minister to, not only one another, but to others. Church is the physical body of Christ in action.

I would like to personally thank all of you for your role in making Solid Rock a vital part of this community. I would also like to thank all of you for the support you have provided Lisa and myself throughout the past year. We couldn't imagine what life would be like without the support of the church. You are truly a blessing and I pray that God will bless you as much this coming year as He has our family in 2019. See You Sunday!

In Christ's Service,  
Pastor Paul

## United Methodist Women

Solid Rock United Methodist Women met on Thursday, December 5, 2019, at Heritage Pointe in the Calico Room. President Barbara Hart gave the opening devotional, "Christmas Giving," by Iris W. Bray. The Purpose of United Methodist Women was recited by all.



Westside Community House of Cleveland, Ohio, was the Mission Focus. They have transformed lives in the community since 1890. Their programs are designed to wrap around youth, families, and seniors to provide them with service and support needed to make them strong and resilient.

Birthday for December is Jinky Pearl



[solidrockumc.com](http://solidrockumc.com)



@solidrockumc



Ventura, who is a mission intern with Seth Mokitimi Methodist Theological Seminary in South Africa.

Roll call, secretary, and treasurer's reports were given by Doris Souers and Barbara Hart. Bernie Garrett gave a Mission Moment about Special Services. She followed with joys and concerns, then offered prayer.

Correspondence was from Indiana Children's Home of Lebanon, Indiana, who had 11 graduates last June. Also read was a letter from the Lucille Raines Residence, which the U.M. Women supports.

Vi Heinen gave an interesting program of "Persistent Women" using scripture from Luke 18:1-8. All repeated the litany.

President Barbara Hart closed the meeting with prayer.

Doris Souers,  
Secretary

## Family Ministry Update

By John Pearson,  
Family Ministry Coordinator

The Little Rocks children's ministry enjoyed 20 kids during our Happy Birthday Jesus Party Kid's Night in December. Each child was able to make a small Christmas ornament and play pin the birthday hat on baby Jesus. The Christmas story was read for the lesson. Our next Kid's Night will be on January 16th from 6:00-7:30 p.m. This will be a Super Hero Night. Kids can come dressed as their favorite super hero, and we will be watching the movie Big Hero 6. We will have a lesson about how Jesus needs to be our hero.

Currently Rock Solid Youth is for 5th-12th grade students. Due to the big age difference and growing numbers we will be splitting into two different groups/times. This will be broken up into a pre-teen youth group (Rock Foundations 456), and a youth group (Rock Solid Youth). Rock Foundations 456 will consist of students in 4-6th grades and will meet on Sundays from 5:30-6:45 p.m. Rock Solid Youth will consist of students in 7-12th grade and will meet on Sundays from 6:45-8:00 p.m. As we split into two groups, both will be able to attend any service projects, fundraisers, or special events that are done through Solid Rock.

The WAY events will be for Rock Solid Youth, but not Rock Foundations 456. The WAY will be having a lock-in on January 3rd at First Baptist from 8:00 p.m.-8:00a.m. This is a free event.

We will be having a Kick-off Party for

the Rock Foundations 456 preteen youth group on January 4th from 4:00-10:00 p.m. at Solid Rock UMC. January 5th will start the new times for Rock Foundations 456 and Rock Solid Youth.

## Remnant Ministries

We would like to cordially invite you to attend the 2nd Annual Remnant Ministries Auction. As many of you know, The Remnant Ministries is a program designed to help women in their recovery from addiction through Christ Jesus.

We are not a government-funded program. We do not have any paid employees. We operate on monies gifted to us through church collections, fundraisers, and gifts from our beloved community.

We currently are at capacity with a waiting list. The funds raised during this auction will be used for operating costs, scholarships for the women of the home and, if there is any left over, money towards a 12-passenger van. We travel often to area churches and jails and meet with community groups to give our testimony and/or help with community events. A van to accommodate all of us would be a huge blessing!

The auction will be held at the Warren United Church of Christ Fellowship Hall, 202 East 2nd Street, on Friday, January 24, at 6:00 p.m. Larry Bower, from WBCL Radio, and Pastor Scott Nedburg will be entertaining us with music and comedy. Supper is a freewill donation.

We hope to see you there! God's blessings!

## Enter in

Tired of making small talk at church about the weather or sports? Then follow Edward Welch's advice to "enter in" to the lives of your fellow worshipers.

A churchgoer once asked Welch, author of *Caring for One Another* (Crossway), two simple yet profound questions: "What was the best thing about your week, and what was the worst thing about your week?" About a month later, when some issues were weighing heavily on Welch's heart, he wondered who'd be willing to pray for him. Immediately, the person who'd asked him those two questions came to mind.

When worshipers are willing to enjoy one another's blessings and be burdened by one another's difficulties, Welch says, the body of Christ gets built up.

## Love in action

Martin Luther King Jr., whose life and legacy we honor this month, spoke often about the power of love. In fact, he equated the practice of nonviolence with "absolute commitment to the way of love."



Love, declared the minister and activist, "is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend." And, he said, anyone who's "devoid of the power to love" is "devoid of the power to forgive."

King distinguished between true love and "empty sentimentalism," however. He taught — and showed — that love is "the active outpouring of one's whole being into the being of another."

Jesus' sacrifice on the cross is the ultimate "active outpouring" of love, and we can choose to follow his example daily.

"Because of Calvary I'm free to choose," writes Max Lucado in *When God Whispers Your Name*. "No occasion justifies hatred; no injustice warrants bitterness. I choose love. Today I will love God and what God loves."

God of our past, present and future, as the calendar turns and we greet another year, we ask not so much for answers to those questions that perplex us, but for confidence in your never-failing care for us.



*A Prayer  
For the  
New Year*

As we reflect on the year we leave behind, we begin with gratitude for the moments and the milestones in which we experienced your presence. As we look to the year ahead, we start with hope for a kinder, more just, lavishly loving world. Through all the years, we depend on the abundance of your grace, the generosity of your mercy and the unwavering promise of your compassion.

Aid us, Almighty God, when we fail to be the people you create and call us to be. Comfort us, Abba, when we face times of sadness, loss and grief. Admonition us, Lord of all, when we neglect the teachings of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Guide us, Triune God, all the days of this new year, and indeed, every day of our lives until that time when we see you face to face.

Amen.

—The Presbyterian Outlook

